

ACORN



The Cover

The Andrews Block c. 1840, demolished 19 October 1984.

Picton Street,

Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Photograph by Peter John Stokes

The cover shows the Andrews Block c. 1840, part of the original and historic streetscape of the old Town of Niagara (Niagara-on-the-Lake) and now but a photographed memory and much regret. In its place yet another dollop of neo-Victorian will be served as a further extension of the Prince of Wales Hotel. This is the fourth old building to be destroyed or removed by this enterprise within the last ten years, this and one other without proper record. Despite the more recent compromise of the façade of the Andrews Block with new windows and bayed shopfronts below its form and detail still represented the real – and old – Niagara. Its scale pointed out the lack of sympathy of neighbouring redevelopment: its survival seemed a mockery and an embarrassment to new buildings. The Andrews Block was originally a three unit terrace of houses framed in heavy timber, the only one in the main commercial area.

Reconsideration of the proposal for enlarging the hotel to take in this building came from a number of quarters including the Town's Planning Director, the Niagara Foundation, the Niagara Historical Society and local citizens deeply concerned with the continual loss of the Province's heritage. The LACAC, after a presentation was made in favour of keeping the Andrews Block, voted to have the Council negotiate with the owners to work out a scheme to utilize the old building. The Council, in its usual wisdom, failed to ask for outside help at this critical stage, and instead relied on yet another sketch presented by the owners, reported to be far from flattering, of how the Andrews Block could be made the ugly duckling of their set piece. The decision to allow the proposal for the hotel expansion to proceed and the demolition of the Andrews Block was by no means unanimous, but, and this is where it really hurts, the chairman of the LACAC voted for the proposal at Council after he had gone along with the motion of his LACAC to negotiate with the owners. Let it also be known that the designer, and not an architect, of this scheme was on the LACAC and you can see the problem.

Local citizens, a hundred and forty strong, signed a petition to support the preservation of the Andrews Block: Town Council refused to receive it. The following day an equally expressive contingent of some thirty participants paraded outside the site with placards displaying such slogans as Preservation, NOT Desecration; Goodbye Old Niagara, Hello Disneyland; The whale swallowed Jonah, the Prince of Wales is swallowing Old Niagara. This is what greeted the Premier and his Cabinet ministers after their meeting and as they entered the Prince of Wales to lunch.

The press reported that Premier Davis conceded the town should be preserved, but was reluctant to get involved in what is apparently considered to be a local municipal issue. Heavens above! The Province created the municipal system: it takes over municipal operations if financial abuses become evident. Is this not a continuing and flagrant wastage of the Province's most notable historic and architectural resource? Niagara-on-the-Lake has been fiddling for years with the idea for a Heritage Conservation District of the main commercial area along Queen and Picton Streets in the old town. The assistant planner in charge of that program regrettably has left, probably as frustrated as some of the townspeople continue to be. It is a shocking story that will become no better as the years go by; old Niagara's sudden prosperity as a tripper's trap has signed its death knell. And to promote it even further the highway entrance, now supered asphalt and reconstructed at enormous expense, is guaranteed to flush it even more. *C'est la vie, ou la mort, ne c'est pas?*

It is sadly ironic that the first neo-Victorian extension of the Prince of Wales along Picton Street was chosen to illustrate a publication concerned with preserving historic streetscapes suggesting that this area was an appropriate treatment: what a lamentable and embarrassing choice guaranteed to haunt those who let it by. On a later occasion with a proposed expansion of this same hotel, when a building original to old Niagara was indeed saved, suggestions were made to re-examine the design being promoted, to explore contemporary, that is modern, alternatives which would serve as a subtle foil to the old structure rather than submerge it among an irrelevant nostalgic miscellany. An Advisory Board member presented a brief and was rudely treated by the Lord Mayor, for which no apology has been forthcoming.

Is it time for re-appraisal of the fate of old Niagara, Ontario's resource? For it seems the local people do not recognize their responsibility or are ignorant of the assets which they should share. Some argue it is just a matter of taste, but that is a shallow appraisal. Perhaps a private act of the Legislature would set things straight by providing for a form of guidance which ensures that democracy and its legacy is not sold short by trifling today.

Peter John Stokes

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WINTER 1984

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Inc. R Newsletter

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The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Inc.

A society incorporated in 1933 for the preservation of the best examples of the architecture of the province, and for the protection of its places of natural beauty.

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EDITORIAL

BARNUM HOUSE

Its picture is at the top of many of the Conservancy letterheads. We've known about it for years. Some members have regretted that it was ever bought by the Conservancy, feeling that it was a project too far from Toronto, too expensive to handle, and, after all, we are not in the museum business.

Yet, Barnum House was saved by the Conservancy, and that's our job.

Eliakim Barnum built the house about 1819, after his earlier house had been burnt about 1813. It is possible that the design of the house was taken from one of Asher Benjamin's pattern books and the wooden Neo-Classic house built by an American carpenter familiar with the construction of similar houses built in New England.

About 1923 Professor Eric Arthur of the University of Toronto School of Architecture became aware of the existence of the Barnum House through another architect, Col. MacKenzie Waters. Professor Arthur visited the house situated near Grafton, and later returned with a few students to take measurements and photographs. Drawings of the front elevation and selected details of the house were prepared by Professor Arthur and Col. Waters and subsequently published about 1926-7 in *Small Houses of the Late 18th and Early 19th Centuries in Ontario*. In 1939 the Barnum House and 97 acres were put up for sale, and through the efforts of Professor Arthur, The Conservancy was able to raise the purchase price of \$4,500. About 1957-58 The Conservancy relinquished its ownership, turning the house over to Haldimand Township to run as a museum. The Ontario Heritage Foundation assumed ownership in 1982.

There is still a great deal of work to be done on the house, if it is to be preserved: expensive work. And the Conservancy does not have that kind of money. Until it does, agencies such as the Ontario Heritage Foundation will have to come to the rescue.

On Saturday, September 8 of this year, a ceremony was held at Grafton, at which two commemorative plaques were unveiled. The ceremony, organized by Parks Canada, was held in cooperation with the Ontario Heritage Foundation. Keynote speakers were John White, chairman of the Ontario Heritage Foundation, J. C. Christakos, director of Parks Canada Ontario Region, and Anthony Adamson, a founding member of The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, Inc.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

On Saturday, September 8th, 1984, under a sunny sky the Barnum House, Grafton was a scene of considerable satisfaction for members of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario.

The occasion was the unveiling of commemorative plaques by both the Federal and Provincial governments. The ceremony gave official recognition to the historical distinctions of one of Canada's premier examples of neo classic domestic architecture. Its designation as a building of national architectural significance and the measures being taken by the Ontario Heritage Foundation towards its sensible preservation are important steps in the journey commenced by far sighted and dedicated members of the ACO forty-five years ago.

Readers of the December 16, 1939 issue of *Saturday Night* will find headlines about the Canadian war effort, also advertisements for the film-musical "Babes in Arms" (with Judy Garland and Mickey Rooney) and Christmas family dinner at Toronto's King Edward Hotel (\$1.50 per plate complete with Luigi Romanelli's orchestra). In addition it contains a letter signed by George M. Wrong; ACO President, Eric Arthur; Fred Haines, president of the Royal Academy, and other public spirited citizens. This letter is an appeal for the preservation of Barnum House which was up for sale. The asking price was \$4,000.00. Happily they were successful. Thanks to them and to those who followed — the ACO, then Haldimand Township and latterly the Ontario Heritage Foundation — the Barnum House remains for our admiration and enjoyment. Our logo is a continuing, visible reminder of the dedication of our predecessors and of the achievements which are possible.

Earlier this year, Preservation Week was celebrated throughout the United States. The theme was 'Preservation is taking care of America'. By following in the tradition established by those who came before us, ACO members have demonstrated that they can claim with some justification, and modest pride, that the Architectural Conservancy is helping to take care of Ontario. It's a worthy endeavour.

NEWS FROM EAST TO WEST from the Branches

QUINTE REGION

The fall of 1984 sees the completion of the Quinte Region Branch's two-year programme of about twenty walking tours designed to familiarize ourselves with our own area and to arouse public interest in our built environment.

Most of the tours have been conducted in co-operation with LACACs local museum, the various historical societies, and in one case with a township bicentennial committee.

That fully half of the tours were in Prince Edward County is due partly to the fact that the HASPE project (Historical Architectural Survey of Prince Edward, leading to a book by Peter John Stokes and Tom Cruickshank) was under way.

The tours were always on a Sunday at two p.m., the public was cordially invited free of charge, and in each of the ten Prince Edward tours there was tea and cookies or the like at the end — provided sometimes by our Branch, sometimes by a host group, or sometimes (as at Tara Hall) by a generous individual home-owner.

Of the Prince Edward tours, the three of Picton were strictly on foot, and so were those of Wellington and Bloomfield, but the Athol tour was entirely by

bus (donated through the Bicentennial Committee), and the other four were partly on foot and partly in participants' cars. This latter arrangement resulted in impressively long processions at the tours of Milford - and - Waupoos, Consecon - and - Carrying Place, Demorestville - and - Northport, and Ameliasburgh - and - Rednersville.

Participation in these ten tours of Prince Edward averaged 50.9 persons, the least being 27 on a stormy August day in Picton, and the most being 79 on a glorious May day in Milford - and - Waupoos. (Of course, this is nothing compared to the several hundred that attended our very first walking tour, of the Foster Ward in Belleville in February of 1933 when the newly-formed Branch was publicizing the threat to the McIntosh-Ridley house there.)

We always manage to get into one or more buildings on each tour. Occasionally a house is offered, as the elegant Redner house at Rednersville, or the ancient Cronk-Needham house near Northport, where we were treated to tea and allowed to clamber around in the attics.

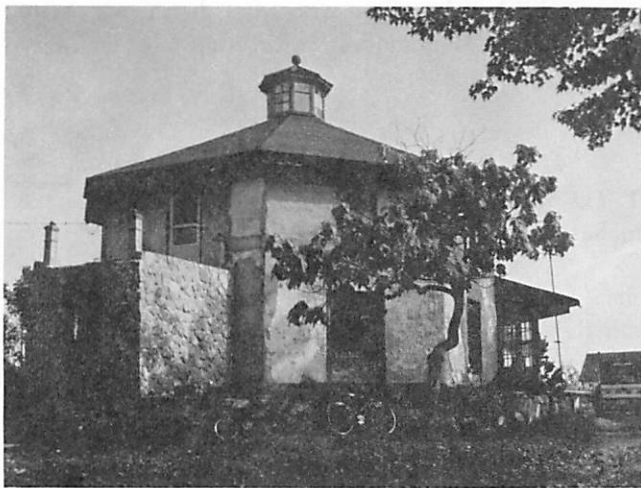
We do like to explore a cellar, as we did in the perhaps more ancient Reynolds-Wilson house at Wellington.

At Picton we climbed above the plaster ceiling of the United Church.

At Waupoos we were shown how the timbers of the old Porter hotel were erected, and at Consecon we walked by the spot where the same Porter hotel once stood; at Demorestville we looked at the original site of the old Knox church, and in Rednersville we had tea in the building itself; at Ameliasburg we looked at the site of the Roblin mill and recollected that many have seen the mill where it is now in Toronto.

There were disappointments: one church and one township hall remained unaccountably locked though arrangements had been made to see them, and the key to one township hall simply didn't work. But normally we were welcomed with great liberality.

Churches are a great favourite — the beautifully maintained chapel at Black River Bridge being at the top of the list, and the astonishing matchboard ceilings (and other work) at St. Alban's in Ameliasburgh and the United Church in Carrying Place being the most exciting finds.



Octagonal Roblin house at Ameliasburgh has lost its surrounding verandah.

Photo by Rev. Lou Somers

We lamented the loss of many interesting buildings now gone and the disfigurement of many through aluminum or plastic siding and picture windows, the loss of verandahs and other details, and the misplaced addition of brick and stone veneers.

We railed at the insensitivity of people who build ranch-style houses where no ranch-style houses should be.

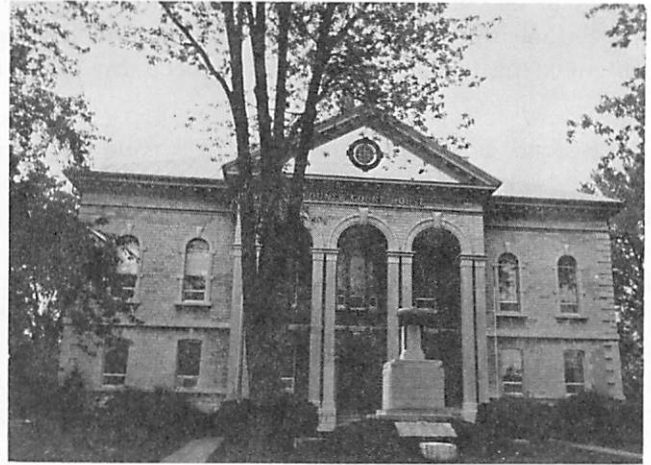
We admired at least one rather successful new house perched like a butterfly on a hill near Milford.

We looked at dams and millponds and pea-viners and such industrial remnants, and tried to account for the economic history of the places we visited.

We haunted cemeteries in various places, a

Quaker burying ground in a pine grove at Bloomfield, and beautiful Glenwood in Picton where we went into the vault that housed 26 bodies last winter and the picturesque funeral chapel with its elaborate stained glass.

There would be no way of recording all we saw or learned or noticed for the first time, whether



Impressive façade of Lennox and Addington County Court House at Napanee.

Photo by Rev. Lou Somers

Flemish bond or roloc brickwork or quoins or pilasters or cornice gutters or eaves returns, whether places seen in a new light or buildings appreciated in new relationships to history or to other buildings.

There would be no way of thanking all the people who contributed in one way or another.

And this is just Prince Edward County. We toured Napanee too, and Trenton several times and Belleville even more often.

At Napanee the mayor himself showed us around the amazing town hall. Although we were locked out of the courthouse we were hospitably received at St. Mary Magdalene church and given tea at the old gaol. We wandered through streets of impressive mansions and remnants of Napanee's prosperous commercial history. We were guided partly by the LACAC's survey and Mrs. Poole's researches and the invaluable printed tour guide. An embarrassment of riches.

PORT HOPE

Branch Activities — August

On August 19th, a tour through 1830s Hill and Dale was organized by owner, Ian Ralston and A. K. Sculthorpe. Over one hundred local members of the A.C.O., LACAC, and the East Durham Historical Society went through this recently designated, beautifully maintained, fabulously furnished, and histori-

cally interesting house, originally built by one of Port Hope's earliest citizens, H. H. Meredith. (Meredith also built a commercial block on downtown Walton Street.) The extensive four-acre manicured gardens were also greatly enjoyed. The estate is located right in the middle of town, just south of the main street, yet, because of its size and privacy, gives the impression of country seclusion. Our sincere thanks to Mr. Ralston for so graciously allowing this mass invasion.

Later on in the afternoon, the Annual A.C.O. Barbecue was held at Sora Brook, Port Britain home of Bob and A. K. Sculthorpe. A good turnout of members thoroughly enjoyed this purely social event and several prospective new members were invited to "try us out".

October

The Sesquicentennial House Tour, "From Log House to Townhouse", was successfully held on October 6th. Fifteen hundred visitors toured the nine houses, St. Mark's Church, Trinity College School, the Magpie Shop and Thomas Gallery on a perfect sunny fall day. The houses ranged from an 1840s log house complete with early furnishings, through houses representing almost every style of residential building in the 19th century, to a contemporary 1970s solar house. Comments on the tour received (overheard) by Tour Committee members have been positive and enthusiastic — most gratifying to all of us involved in the organization. The refreshment venues — lunch at Batterwood Hall (catered by the Welcome U.C.W.), coffee and muffins at T.C.S. (catered by the School's Ladies' Guild), afternoon tea at the Port Hope United Church (hosted by the A.C.O. and church volunteers), and dinner at St. Mark's Church (hosted by parish members) — were all well attended and the food at all locations was excellent.

One of the very nicest aspects of the A.C.O. Tour, apart from the welcome funds that are raised for our Heritage Fund, are the financial benefits that accrue to other organizations in town, such as those mentioned above, who help so much in making the day complete. In addition, the spillover of Tour visitors who patronize the local shops is an aspect of the House Tour that we take most seriously in our planning, and endeavour each year to encourage by having an interesting downtown commercial building included on our Tour. The Tour Committee thanks most sincerely all those many volunteers who were involved in any way in making the '84 Tour the success it was.

Sesquicentennial House Plaques

In a charming ceremony at St. Mark's Church on Sunday, October 21st, owners of eight sesquicentennial buildings were presented with handsome plaques stating the date of the house and the words "Sesqui-

centennial House" in bold brass lettering on a lacquered black background. The houses and owners so recognized were Penryn Homestead (Jim and Lois Anderson); Canada House (Susan Van Camp); St. Mark's Church (plaque received by the People's Warden, Ian McDonald); Bluestone House (Don and Joan Rumgay); The Little Bluestone (Dr. Bob Sanderson); 18 King Street (Farley and Claire Mowat); 15 King Street (Mrs. M. J. Bennett), and the Grange (Mrs. G. Robertson). All of these houses and the church were built before or around 1834, the date of incorporation of the Town of Port Hope. The plaques were designed, constructed, and most generously contributed by A.C.O. member Harry Lay. Mrs. A. K. Sculthorpe, chairman of the Sesquicentennial Architectural Month Committee, made the presentation and Jane Staunton, President of the Port Hope Branch, said a few words of congratulations to the owners.

Annual General Meeting

On October 30th, the 1984 General Meeting of the Branch was held at Greenwood Tower Inn with approximately fifty members in attendance. Treasurer Kay Wilson presented the financial statement showing the Branch having approximately \$35,800 on deposit (\$15,000 of which is still to be transferred to the C.N. Station Project account). The House Tour financial statement showed a net profit of \$12,930.04. (This figure includes receipts and percentages from other events held in conjunction with the Tour — the John de Visser Slide Show, the Tea at Port Hope United Church, Lunch at Batterwood Hall, and Dinner at St. Mark's Church.

Bob Fair, Policy Committee Chairman, presented a brief report on the work undertaken by that committee over the year. A Policy Booklet for executive members was assembled and a draft set of guidelines for the Port Hope Heritage Fund was developed. Mr. Fair briefly explained the guidelines and philosophy of the fund.

Membership Chairman, Cathy Moore, announced that several new members had recently joined the Branch and that renewals were arriving in quantity in each post.

President Jane Staunton gave her address, congratulating the Branch on its financial success this year, outlining the year's activities, explaining the restructuring of the executive portfolios, and suggesting future directions for the Branch in the areas of education and tax assessment reform. She thanked a fine executive and board for their dedication and support.

Past President Nancy Redner presented the Nominating Committee's slate of new executive members and board directors. They are: President — Susan

Thomas; Past President — Jane Staunton; Vice-President — Robert Fair; Treasurer — Kay Wilson; Membership Chairman — Cathy Moore; Directors — Leslie Benson, Paul Godfrey, Ted Hunt (LACAC), Barbara Irwin, Frankie Liberty, Sandra Murray, Katherine Sedgwick.

The chair was turned over to incoming President Susan Thomas who thanked Past President Jane Staunton and the executive for their successful year. After adjournment of the business meeting, guest speaker, Mrs. A. K. Sculthorpe, presented an informative background talk and update on the C.N. Station Project. Tenders have been received and the winning bid was submitted by Boyne Valley Construction, Toronto. Work is to commence on the station almost immediately and should be completed in approximately four months. The announcement was received with both a sense of congratulation and relief, as the project represents several years of hard work and persistent planning on behalf of the ACO, CN, and the Ontario Heritage Foundation.

TORONTO REGION

Spurred on by the enthusiasm and energy of President Margaret Tucker, the Toronto Region branch continued its programme even during the summer months. In August members and guests spent a delightful afternoon at the Guild Inn. Following a lavish and well-prepared brunch buffet, Mr. Hugh Walker spoke to the group on the history and the current uncertainties facing the Guild Inn. The future status of the Inn and its unique setting and collection of sculpture and architectural fragments is still to be determined. The group was then shown an excellent audio-visual presentation on the Inn and its development. Mr. Walker, who was substituting for Spencer Clarke, the Guild Inn's founder, was extremely knowledgeable and eager to answer all questions. His concern for the preservation of the Inn and of its future potential was amply conveyed to those members fortunate to have attended. Anyone who has never visited the Guild Inn is urged to do so; one can then quickly realise the importance of safeguarding the future of this priceless asset to Metropolitan Toronto.

The last of the branch's summer walking tours was held on Sunday, September 16th. The group met across from the Old Toronto Stock Exchange for a tour of the Financial District ably guided by Donna Thompson.

The Fall programme began a week later on September 23rd with a tour of the Harris Filtration Plant in the Beaches. To supplement the public tour, which concentrates on the filtration process, Margo

Teasdale did extensive research on the history and architectural aspects of what has been described as a magnificent filtration complex, descended from the Beaux Arts and decorated in the Egyptian style. The Plant was named after R. C. Harris, who was Works Commissioner for the city of Toronto from 1912 until his death in 1945. These were significant years for Toronto. Between 1900 and 1912, the city's population and its land area doubled. Despite the lack of either a planning department or a parks department, Harris coped with the increased demands for running water and roads. Moreover, he made sure that the buildings and bridges his department erected were attractive. Anyone who is interested in 1930s architecture would be well advised to take one of the public tours offered on weekends of the Harris Filtration Plant. The complex, which rises up the Lake Ontario bank, is best viewed from the lakeshore side. There, picnic tables are provided in the warm months in a truly magnificent setting.

On Wednesday, October 17th, Tom Cruickshank will give an illustrated lecture on his book *Rogues' Hollow*, a timely subject since many of the Toronto Branch members will be visiting Rogues' Hollow (Newburgh) on October 27th during the Annual General Meeting at Belleville.

Spadina House is the topic for the Wednesday, November 21st meeting. William Greer, Architect for the Toronto Historical Board, was involved in all architectural matters relating to this exciting restoration project. We look forward to his presentation.

LACAC News

The future of the Pressed Metal Company Showroom (Offices of the Metallic Roofing Company of Canada Ltd.) 1190 - 92 King Street West, is of concern to the Toronto Branch. The following is excerpted from the designating report of the Toronto Historical Board:

The office building for the Metallic Roofing Co. of Canada Ltd. was built not long after the factory moved in 1896 to a new building at the north east corner of King Street West and Dufferin Street. The architect, Henry Simpson, was also responsible for Cooke's Church.

The architectural appearance of the building is that of a stone exhibition pavilion in the spirit of the Chicago Fair of 1893. Actually the stone textures, all details, colour and roof tiles are realistically executed in pressed metal. The design is an exuberant expression in the Beaux Arts Style. Lavish use of the products of the company, inside and out, display the diversity of skills achieved by the company and its craftsmen. In a magazine advertisement of the period, the company referred to "our new catalogue . . . weighing ten tons and . . . costing upwards of seven

thousand dollars". The dominance of its style was obviously intended as an exhibition of products as well as prestigious office space. It was built prominently in the new industrial area of the city which was developing at the end of the nineteenth century.

The building was also close to an area of the city that was growing in prestige both residentially and commercially. The former Bank of British North America on the southwest corner of King Street West and Dufferin, and housing on the west side of Dufferin north of King, still provide a setting, along with the industrial buildings, that gives meaning in time, place, and materials to the period when it was built.

The one storey Classic Revival design is basically symmetrical with indential hip-roofed pavilions at each side of a slightly set back and lower central portion. At the west end, there is a portion serving as a link to the adjacent factory building and another entrance. The design is a mix of Greek and Roman elements. Attached tapered corner columns at each end pavilion have Ionic capitals, egg and dart details and an architrave with dentils and brackets ornamented on sides and curved bottom with a leaf motif. Each of the four front columns has at the central point a shield ornamented with the entwined letters of the company name (P.M.Co.). Above the cornice and projecting through the hipped roof at the four corners and in line with the columns below, are finials on a base in the form of a large urn with four "S" shaped handles and a flagpole projecting well above the roof ridge. The metallic roof is formed in the style of Spanish tiles throughout.

The central portion has three windows divided by rusticated pilasters rising from a band course at the sill to another at the head. Between the head band course and the eave cornice, a central feature depicts figures in relief representing drama on the left and music on the right of a shield, thoroughly entwined with garlands of leaves, flowers and grapes.

The east pavilion entrance opens into what was likely the reception area to adjacent offices. Walls, cornice and ceiling are in highly decorated metal sheeting. Well detailed wood trim surrounds doors and windows. The west pavilion area appears to have been the office of the president. A five foot dado is paneled in oak with ornamented pressed metal wall extending to the twelve foot ceiling with bracketed cornice panels and beams. One wall has a fine semi-circular brick fireplace with wood mantel flanked on either side by recessed arched niches six feet high panelled in wood.

The building is an extremely well preserved expression of management enterprise of a prominent company. The use of pressed metal in buildings at the turn of the century indicates a skill achieved in industrial product design and the use of machines.

The company marketed a material they believed was "attractive, permanent and economical", and would "never crack or fall off". Much can be learned about the social and architectural history of the times from these advertising statements, as well as their truth through the continued existence of the company's own building which still stands as evidence of their word and product some eighty years later.

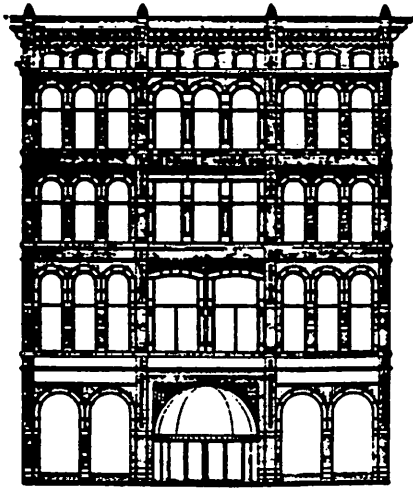
There is some hope for the survival of this building. The Neighbourhoods Committee of the City of Toronto Council has requested City Hall staff to find an appropriate site to which the designated building could be moved. The Committee, at its meeting on August 16, was unanimous in its support to save the structure. Although the Committee would allow staff up to one year to locate a new site, Tridel, the developer of the larger site on which the building now sits, has indicated that the Showroom must be removed by November of this year. Ross Bobak of the Parkdale Pressed Metal Showroom Foundation appeared before the Committee to urge it to support all efforts to save the building. In addition, Howard Levine of the ACT Executive presented the Conservancy's letter that had been sent to the Mayor and Council in June, requesting all efforts be made to save this unique building.

HAMILTON REGION

As if to remind us that the work of the conservationist is never dull or done, events of the past few months have provided signs of hope, despair, and anxious anticipation for ACO members in the Hamilton Region Branch.

Signs of hope have come in the form of restoration and renovation projects undertaken through private and public investments. The most impressive project has been the transforming of an empty and 'soon-to-be-demolished' building in the heart of Hamilton into an impressive retail and office centre. In its 90 years as a department store, the Thomas C. Watkins building had undergone a number of less-than-sensitive 'improvements', but the withdrawal of the store threatened the final improvement we've all grown familiar with as unimaginative developers experiment with new meanings for the Biblical reminder, "Dust to dust, ashes to ashes". A local developer with ideas of resurrection stepped in instead and saved the building from demolition only to find that Canadian banks did not share his vision for the future. British financiers did however and, armed with their investment, the developer engaged ACO member Trevor Garwood-Jones to effect the transformation of the building into the recently opened "Park Place". The brick and stone exterior has been cleaned by methods which do minimal damage, and the much-abused street-level façade has been re-designed with arches

which echo the romanesque detail of the upper floors. The interior of Park Place has been partially reconstructed to preserve the spaciousness of the original design while providing modern services and office areas. At street level, two floors of commercial space flank a central promenade leading from the entrance to a glasshouse in the rear. Three floors of office space are arranged above this public area, and a lower floor of restaurant space below it.



Park Place

A second sign of hope in the area has been the renovation of a c. 1860 home on the grounds of the Royal Botanical Gardens into the new headquarters for the Bruce Trail Association. The renovation of 'Raspberry House' was undertaken with the financial assistance of the Canadian National Sportsmen's Fund and private donors, and under the direction of ACO members Anthony Butler and Robert Brough.

Mixed signals of hope and despair have also appeared in the area. After restoring the fine stone Second Empire mansion which houses its offices, CHCH-TV tore down the three nineteenth century brick homes which had housed additional offices and production facilities and which were rendered redundant by the construction of a modern building behind the stone mansion. One step forward and three steps back isn't exactly the march of progress, but station authorities weakly claimed that a 'cleared' property would be easier to sell for development. Perhaps the fine new research and taping facilities could be focused on the sign which has adorned the large vacant lot cum parking lot adjacent to the newly 'cleared' space: it reads, and indeed has read for lo these past 10 years or more, 'Commercial lot available for development'.

A second sign of despair comes courtesy of the public Board which was formerly charged with ensuring the transmission of the ideals of western civilization and citizenship to generations of Hamilton

children. Yes, once again a Board of Education which finds in cost-consciousness the fullest extent of its duties to the modern city, has decided to demolish a prominent late 19th century school and replace it with one of the low, flat-roofed concrete bunkers which pass for the modern school. Strathcona Public School was deemed by virtue of high ceilings and large rooms to have outlived its usefulness, and the Board of Education was unable to summon up the imagination needed to find an alternative to demolition. O tempora, O mores.

Finally, the Hamilton Region Branch has intervened with a submission in public hearings called to consider the fate of the Red Hill Creek Valley, a five kilometre long park belt in Hamilton's east end which highway planners would like to turn into a 'transportation corridor'. Behind the euphemism lies a 4 or 6 lane wide freeway which would effectively obliterate the natural ravine park linking the escarpment to the bay. The Hamilton Region submission calls attention to historical significance of the park as a component of an urban park belt first proposed in 1917 and largely developed in the following 13 years. The western and southern sections of the belt have already fallen victim to the promoters of four-wheeled, four-lane progress; only the Red Hill Creek Valley remains. Hamiltonians are now waiting in hope and anxious anticipation of the outcome.

BRANT COUNTY

Bus Tour

Brant County Branch took its September Bus Tour to the Guild Inn, Scarborough. Donald Pettitt, Convenor, reports an enjoyable tour, a delicious luncheon and a courteous guide. Some of the outstanding artifacts were Ionic columns from the façade of the Bankers' Bond Building, formerly 60 King West, Toronto, built in 1920 and demolished in 1983; J. A. McKenzie was architect. The Imperial Bank of Canada pilasters, formerly at 802 Yonge Street built in '28, the building was demolished in 1972. The panels set into the Inn façade were from The Bank of Montreal at King and Bay. There are twelve of them in bas-relief depicting the Provinces. Built in 1948, the Bank gave way to First Canadian Place.

Slide Show

The current slide-show on Cottages in Brantford was compiled and presented by Audrey Scott. Photographers were Audrey, Violet Fair and Agnes Whittaker. About forty cottages were studied.

The dictionary definition of "cottage" is "small house." While the local definition of a "cottage" tends to be that of a one-storey, centre hall building



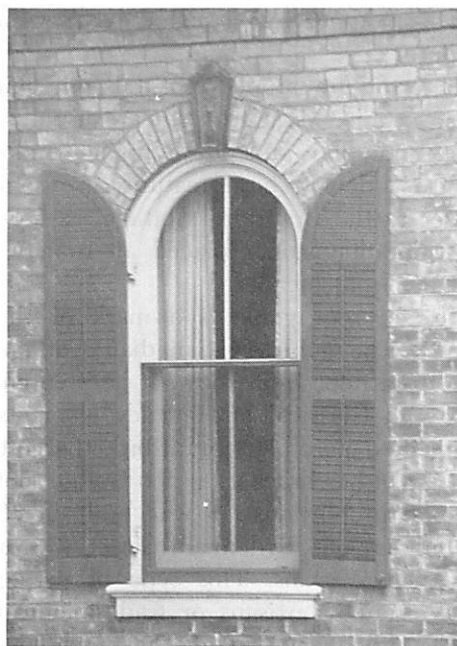
7 Egerton



117 Dufferin



92 Charlotte



92 Charlotte

with centre door and windows either side. Here in Brantford there are hundreds of single-storey buildings with a claim to cottage ancestry. Why so many? Who lived in them? When were they built? It was to avoid overcrowding and the attendant health problems that Brantford workers opted for the detached or semi-detached cottage.

In Brantford the great boom in cottage building followed the industrial expansion in the years 1870 to 1900. Again this expansion had been made possible by the agricultural blossoming of the 1850s and 1860s.

The Brantford Cottage is generally perceived to have a square plan, rectangular façade, made of white brick, (mainly from the Thistle Brick yards on East Colborne Street in Brantford) and is one or one-and-a-half storeys high. There is no basement, or a half basement, a low to medium hip roof, maybe a centre front gable. Here also you would find a circular or rectangular vent or window in the gable. The latter most often has a Gothic, rounded or pointed head.

Other indications of this type of cottage are chimneys either side in the front side bay. Front windows are headed with brick voussoirs, doors with a transom and voussoirs. Proportions of front windows and doors are even with perhaps a slightly off-centre door. There is a brick foundation on most of these buildings.

Most cottages were built between 1870 and 1900. They were based on Ontario Cottage designs. The latter were built between 1840 and 1870 — the era of agricultural expansion. These in turn were products of the Loyalist Cottage, which came to Canada in the years 1800 to 1830 from the Regency Cottage Style

in Britain — at times by-passing the U.S.A. and the Loyalist route.

Note here the low hipped roof, tall side chimneys, rectangular façade. Main features are usually a fan-window over the door and side lights or windows beside the front door. These features are sometimes carried over to the Brantford Cottage, as are corner quoins or imitation stones placed alternately at the corners of the front façade.

The peaked roof gable is a mark of the Neo-Gothic style. The gable in Canadian Cottages protected the front door from snow. It is often curiously combined with Classical or Regency elements, such as a pedimented porch. In Brantford, the cottage at 7 Egerton Street has brackets, a neo-Gothic roof-gable and Regency proportions. It was built in 1878 by J. Scott, builder. 135 Sydenham Street was built in 1896 by Alice Watkins. This type of cottage was built most often by artisans or tradesmen, and was frequently rented. One cottage was rented by six tenants and their families.

The need for such accommodation is made clear when we realize that Brantford's population increased from 8,200 in 1871 to 16,200 by 1900.

The Brantford Cottage, as well as other styles of cottage in Brantford make an interesting study, popular with the general public as well as with architecture buffs, because of the prevalence of these structures and their ownership by people in a wide range of economic circumstances.

NORTH WATERLOO REGION

We are planning two evening lectures this fall. On October 23rd, Mr. Fred Blayney, a local pharmacist, will speak on Early Canadian Maps. Mr. Blayney and his wife have an extensive collection of Canadiana, of which the maps are but a small part. On November 13th, Dr. Paul Albright will speak on Old Tools, Wooden and Metal. Dr. Albright and his wife have worked for a number of years restoring an early Waterloo County house and have opened their home to one of our house tours.

A number of us will be attending the Annual General Meeting in Belleville. We look forward to visiting with other members and being revitalized with enthusiasm for another year. We will be holding our Christmas Party at the home of our Past President and his wife, Bob and Marg Rowell. Their home will soon be celebrating its 100th Birthday.

Joye Krauel

GENERAL CONSERVANCY NEWS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Quinte Region branch were hosts to the

Annual General Meeting which was held in Belleville. Dinner at the Belleville Club was enjoyed before a meeting of the Advisory Board on the night of October 26. The Chairman of the board, Donna Baker, spoke of the activities of the board, and its potential as one of the strongest arms of the Conservancy.

Next day, Roy Turner, president of the Quinte Region Branch, opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. A member of the Belleville Council welcomed the members on behalf of the mayor. Howard Walker then welcomed the panel, who were introduced by Marg Rowell, of the Waterloo LACAC. Mr. David Cuming, Conservation Officer of the Architectural and Planning Unit, Heritage Branch of the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, Mr. Richard Unterman, BRIC Consultant, Architectural and Planning Unit, Heritage Branch of the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, and Mr. Sam Stokes, who just recently held the post of Director of Rural Program for the National Trust for Historic Preservation in Washington, D.C. Mr. Cuming spoke on the background of the evolution of Ontario rural landscape. Richard Unterman talked on the roles of the smaller centre, past and present; also trends in the life styles of economic development contributing to their decline and resurgence. He mentioned the BRIC effect on hamlets. Mr. Stokes talked of the National Trust and rural programs. He explained that the American National Trust is built more on historical preservation rather than on architectural, such as the British National Trust. He mentioned an inadequate response to protect national resources and rural environments, and suggested that this is best done through local government and non-profit organizations working together, often with volunteers and one paid secretary. It was a rewarding experience to hear a speaker of Mr. Sam Stokes' calibre.

At noon, a bus trip to Newburgh was interesting, passing through Lonsdale, a mill village on the Salmon River. An old abandoned stone store, with its original windows still in place, was noted. After lunch, at the Newburgh United Church, a walking tour was taken, members splitting into two groups, one headed by Peter Stokes, and the other by Tom Cruickshank.

That evening, dinner was held at the Quinte Living Centre, where the meeting was also held. The president, Howard Walker, opened the session and gave his president's report, thanking the ACO council members and the outgoing treasurer, Peter Walker, for their assistance. Ann Hughson, our new secretary, was welcomed and thanked for taking over so capably from Margaret Wolff. Mr. Walker noted each branch's accomplishments, and then Mrs. Sculthorpe read the names of those nominated for the new

council: President, Howard V. Walker; Senior Vice-President, Nicholas Hill; Vice-President, Donna Baker; Vice-President, Carel Kippers; Secretary, Betty Dashwood; Treasurer, Douglas McPhie.

Mr. John de Visser was introduced by Mr. Walker, and his beautiful slides were shown. Toronto president, Margaret Tucker, thanked Mr. de Visser, and the evening closed with a cheese and wine reception.

Next day, Sunday, after coffee and muffins at the Armouries, Mr. Walker opened the meeting, noting that the theme for the branch speakers would be 'To Be or Not to Be: The Heritage of Hamlets'. Peter Stokes opened the discussion, noting the disappearance of hamlets, and those that were threatened. Margaret Tucker showed vestiges of hamlets in Toronto, now swallowed up by the city. Alice King Sculthorpe, of Port Britain, near Port Hope, showed both sides of conservation. She noted the road at Port Britain from Port Hope was once an old Indian trail which was used in 1812 by soldiers from Kingston to York. Carel Kippers, from the Hamilton branch, gave vignettes of two little hamlets on the road from Hamilton to Galt: Rockton and Sheffield. Mr. Stokes summed up the three talks. After a coffee break, Pat Rosebrugh gave a short talk, with pictures, of the Irish tour next year. Norma Hazlett, of Huron County, gave her talk as a resident of Ben Miller. She noted that the thirty year-round residents called Ben Miller their 'pride and joy'. Ruth Chapman, of the London Region Branch, spoke of Byron, on the western edge of London, also the hamlet of Kilworth, noting that their watchword was 'eternal vigilance'. Bob Rowell, of the North Waterloo Region Branch, spoke of the hamlet of Philipsburg on the outer edge of Wilmot Township and Waterloo Region. He noted that the hamlet has a main corner with four buildings defining the corner. All the buildings in the hamlet now have become residential, and he suggested that it would be a good idea to leave it that way. Peter Stokes's summation noted the radical change which has occurred, and the resistance to this change under insurmountable odds.

Buses then took the members on two tours, one to Prince Edward County with Tom Cruickshank, and the other to Belleville and surrounding hamlets, led by Mr. R. C. Greig. Both tours enjoyed lunch at Albury Church, before starting on their respective ways. The tours returned to Glanmore House (Hastings County Museum) where the members took their farewells.

PETER JOHN STOKES'S FALL BUS TOUR

Twenty ACO members enjoyed yet another remarkably successful tour conducted by Peter John

Stokes on the weekend of October 13-14, this time to the Lindsay/Peterborough area of Eastern Ontario. On both days thick early morning fog was burned off by brilliant sunshine and we enjoyed clear skies, crisp air, and autumn colour at its height.

On Saturday morning we drove via Whitevale and Cannington with their respective treasures of white frame and red brick to the Old Stone Kirk near Beaverton. To see it so serene in its setting, surrounded by headstones with proud references to the Isle of Islay, and to view its interior with all the original pine woodwork, clear, round-headed windows, and pulpit with the double, winding stairs is one of the great and numinous experiences of Ontario architecture.

After lunch by a rushing stream at the lift lock at Kirkfield, we drove on to Lindsay, Fenelon Falls, and Bobcaygeon with Randall Speller commenting on the architecture of this area which is so rich in associations with the Otonabee pioneers. In Fenelon Falls we were fortunate to be able to tour Maryboro Lodge, a romantic cottage constructed in 1837 on a park lot overlooking Cameron Lake, and now the local museum. On our way to the Beechwood Lodge near Buckhorn where we spent the night, we drove past the Beehive, the magnificent log house also dating from the 1830's and built for the Dunsford family.

On Sunday morning after another excellent meal at the Lodge, we left the shores of Stoney Lake and drove to Lakefield to see Kivas Tully's masterpiece, Christ Church, and to compare it with its successor, the present Anglican Church. After a lovely ride through the most glorious autumn landscape, we reached Hastings for another delicious picnic lunch on the banks of the Trent Canal. Who will forget the splendid view looking back through the soft air towards the stone mill framed in autumn foliage?

In Peterborough Peter conducted a walk around the residential section and by great good luck we were invited into a mid-century mansion with a Palladian interior. Here again, who will forget the thrill of the octagonal front hall with five interior doorways opening from it?

On to tea at Hutchison House, a lovely stone dwelling complete with barge board and picket fence and an interior as satisfying as any restored house in the country — a tribute to the local historical society and the restoration architect. At Millbrook we were given a slide show in the town hall and a fine tour of this elegant and remarkable community by two members of its energetic Save-the-Mill Committee. At Kendal Peter revealed another hidden treasure — an 1850s Greek Revival frame building, possibly an old Orange Lodge Hall. In Bond Head (Newcastle) we were the guests of Norma and Roger Yates and enjoyed a fine dinner in their splendid Regency

house.

Ontario's architectural heritage is disappearing at an alarming and depressing rate. We, the beneficiaries of this heritage, can retard this trend only through informed efforts and it is through seeing what we have that one appreciates our heritage. The ACO is to be commended for organizing these richly informative and thoroughly delightful tours. A. K. Sculthorpe in her inimitable and energetic way attends to countless administrative details. No less do we benefit from the knowledge and unequalled eye of that connoisseur of the architecture of Ontario, Peter Stokes. *Semper floreat.*

ADVERTISING THE CONSERVANCY

Thanks to Grant Wakely Cartage, The ACO message is transported across Ontario on a tractor-trailer.



APPEAL FOR CONSERVANCY RECORDS AND HISTORICAL MATERIAL

The Conservancy is trying to bring together as many of its records (both at the provincial and branch levels) which remain, in preparation for donating them to the Ontario Archives in Toronto. We would greatly appreciate it if any members of former and present executives or any other individuals who may have non-current minutes, treasurer's files, membership lists; brochures for house tours, pamphlets, booklets, and books published by the Conservancy; reports on individual buildings, etc., and who could help us by transferring and/or donating them to us would arrange to bring them to the office at 191 College Street, Toronto where they will be sorted before being sent to the Archives. The Ontario Archives has promised to catalogue this material as a collection, with a finding-aid; they will return and duplicate material to us.

If you have any material to contribute please contact Ann Hughson, Office Administrator, 191 College Street, Toronto M5T 1P9 (telephone: 416-593-3051)

OR Larry Pfaff, Archivist, c/o Art Gallery of Ontario, 317 Dundas St. West, Toronto M5T 1G4 (telephone: 416-977-0414 ext. 341).

KENNETH H. J. CLARKE, C.M.

K. H. J. Clarke, was inducted into the University of Toronto Engineering Alumni Hall of Distinction at a Gala Awards Dinner on October 20th at Hart House. The Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering was founded in 1873, and there have been over 22,000 graduates since that time. 60 of them have been inducted into the Hall of Distinction, most posthumously; 24 are still alive. Another distinction for a valued member of the Conservancy.

PHILIPSBURG: A HERITAGE HAMLET

Presented by Bob Rowell at the A.G.M.

Waterloo Region is located about 70 miles west of Toronto on the 401, and is west of Guelph and north-west of Hamilton and Dundas. Its settlement history dates back to 1799, when the first of the so called "Pennsylvania Dutch" settlers arrived to homestead on the banks of the Grand River. The "German Company Tract" eventually formed Waterloo Township, the central township of the county. Woolwich and North Dumfries, also astride the Grand River and also former Six Nations Grant lands, were the second and third townships formed. Wellesley Township, to the north-west, was surveyed from the "Queen's Bush" in 1842, thus becoming the fifth and final township of the county. The fourth township, Wilmot, lies south of Wellesley and west of Waterloo, and was partially surveyed in 1824.

This survey encompassed the central portion of the township, and was done in preparation for the settlement of a group of German Lutherans, who emigrated directly from Germany under the direction of Christian Nafziger, their leader. The survey laid out six concessions of single fronted 200 acre lots, fronting on three concession roads. The three roads were directed to start from the ends of three existing roads in Waterloo township, and to run parallel to the Oxford County boundary on the south, while the lot lines and side roads were to be parallel to the Waterloo Township boundary. This produced a township in which the side roads intersect the concession roads at an angle. A comparison of this recent map with the map from the 1881 Atlas shows how little the geography of the township has changed in the intervening time. Only the introduction, and subsequent relocation, of Provincial Highway 7 and 8 has greatly changed the road map.

The three original roads are Snyder's Road, in the centre of the township, Bleams Road, to the south,

and Erb's Road to the North. Near the western end of Erb's Road, at the intersection with the side road that now leads to Wellesley Village, stands the hamlet of Philipsburg. Today, Philipsburg consists of two hamlets, one at the intersection, and one approximately one-quarter mile further west. Some of the buildings are barns or sheds, and the remainder are all used for houses except for the church. At least four of these buildings were not originally built as houses; the two at the westerly corner of the intersection, the school, and the small building at the westerly edge of West Philipsburg. The latter is all that remains of the business empire of Christopher Doering, Justice of the Peace, Postmaster, General Merchant, and proprietor of a tannery that was established in 1843 and by 1864 was doing \$20,000 worth of business per year and which rated a picture on the border of the 1861 Tremaine Map. By 1877 this enterprise was owned by Forier and Niebergall, and the annual value was up to \$30,000. Eventually the tannery burned; the store, a large rectangular hip-roofed brick building, was converted to apartments, burned in 1963, demolished in 1935, leaving only the tail which has since been turned into a house by a member of the un-painted plywood school.

This 1855 sketch, which shows a part of Philipsburg in the background, gives scant hint of the business activity to come. In 1867 Philipsburg claimed two stores, two hotels, the tannery, an ashery, a harness shop, a blacksmith, two tailors, three shoe makers, two weavers, a brick and tile yard, and a grist mill, while a cider mill, carpenter shop, and wagon shop were established later. However, as well as the farmhouse in the foreground, the sketch shows, at the extreme left, the building that by 1880 was known as the Royal Hotel, located on the north-west corner of the main intersection. The long eaves return and asymmetrical end-wall window arrangements suggest a filled-inn two storey verandah, while the attic windows are unusual. The small building contained a stable and a meeting hall above. It has since disappeared and the hotel itself has been altered to provide a general store fronting the intersection. At the time of its closing, a few years ago, it was the last remaining commercial enterprise in the village.

The 1861 Tremaine map indicates an inn on the south-west as well as the north-west corner; either the brick part or the frame part of this building, or both, could be old enough to be the second inn. It would be interesting to know whether the buildings in the easterly corners of the intersection were associated with some aspect of the village's boom years. We have been told that they are both 20th century buildings; certainly the one to the south-east has a matching garage, as well as a small barn, but the house which goes with these must have been built

by a man of some means. The property in the north-east includes a modest 1920's house, but it is not difficult to imagine a prosperous waggon shop at home here.

The schoolhouse at Philipsburg was built in 1917 to replace an earlier building. It ceased to operate as a school in 1965, and has since been converted to residential use. By contrast, the church is still a thriving entity in the community. The present building was built in 1929 to replace an earlier structure, and the congregation is made up not only of people from Philipsburg and the immediate area, but also of people who have since moved to New Hamburg and Wellesley but still return to Philipsburg each Sunday for services.

The houses in the village are generally kept in good repair. Some of them are in more or less original condition, while others are modernized, rather than restored in the sense that we might prefer. However, the overall effect is one of continuing residential stability.

What then is to become of Philipsburg? The presence of two non-residential buildings at the main intersection suggests some form of commercial, perhaps tourist oriented, use. However, Philipsburg is not big enough to put on a major annual festival, as do Wellesley and Elmira. Nor could it withstand a weekly influx of tourists visiting Ye Olde Shoppes, as does St. Jacobs. The truth of the matter is that Philipsburg is a successful semi-rural residential community, and perhaps it would be best to leave it that way.

IS IT TIME TO CONSIDER OUR 'SUBURBAN HERITAGE'?

When they developed in the decades, after the Second World War, the suburbs were denounced for their monotonous streets and characterless houses. Such criticisms were often valid, but believe it or not, some of the better suburbs from the 1950s have come of age. Many have distinct advantages over newer subdivisions: trees have matured, the lots tend to be larger, and the older neighbourhoods have had a chance to establish their own identity. Even the architecture, as expressed in the ubiquitous ranch-style bungalow, has gained a certain character over the years, especially when compared to the horrific proportions of the 1930s 'pseudo-colonial'.

As debate continues to rage over the fate of Ontario's nineteenth-century neighbourhoods, it may never have occurred to preservationists that some day the best suburban enclaves may also be the subject of heritage conservation battles. Already there are indications that the character of the suburban neighbourhood could change dramatically in the next few

decades. The planning profession acknowledges that because of escalating energy costs and mounting pressures on suburban land, the low residential densities in many suburbs are a conspicuous waste of precious land. Proponents of this school maintain that existing subdivisions could be subdivided further: back yards could be infilled with medium density housing and commercial enterprise could be permitted on lands that until now have been zoned wholly residential. Such development could add a certain vitality to many a sleepy suburb, and there are precedents in older urban areas that have been successful, such as the renowned Dundas-Sherburne project in Toronto.

Such enthusiasm should be tempered with some consideration for the past. Despite the widely held notion that the suburbs are an aesthetic wasteland, there are some examples that have stood the test of time, and like the Victorian streetscape, have validity as the objects for preservation. For instance, Thorncrest Village in central Etobicoke in western Metropolitan Toronto, stands out as a particularly interest-



Thorncrest Village in Etobicoke epitomizes the best in 1950s suburban neighbourhood design.

Photo by Tom Cruickshank



The consistent scale of the 1950s bungalow lends the village much of its character.

Photo by Tom Cruickshank



... but the area's harmonious atmosphere is threatened by incongruous redevelopment.

Photo by Tom Cruickshank

ing period piece. In its narrow winding lanes, it is a residential subdivision that expresses the very best in post-war philosophies in both architecture and town planning. Lots are generous in size and the houses rather modest; some have no basements, but most share a harmonious fifties' theme. There is a strong sense of 'neighbourhood' here, focusing on the pool and recreation centre, purposefully sited at the centre of the community. However, the real appeal of Thorncrest Village is its apparent randomness: the streets follow the natural terrain; setbacks vary; woodlots have been preserved and new shade trees are reaching substantial heights. Best of all, the Village has definite boundaries and you can always tell you're in a special place.

Unfortunately, this rich and genuine character has been compromised in recent years by new buyers who, taking advantage of the Village's unusually large lots, have replaced the smallish fifties home with an estate house of immense proportions, decorated with all the inappropriate excesses of the 1970s and 80s. At first sight, the preservationist feels that same disturbing sense of loss and frustration as when looking upon an equally arrogant treatment of a nineteenth-century streetscape.

These developments may signal a new era in preservation. Perhaps now is the time to extend our concept of 'heritage' to more recent times. In suburban areas such as Etobicoke, Mississauga and Nepean, LACACs and local branches of the ACO might benefit from an analysis of their better suburbs and perhaps even propose district designation for the best. The architecture of the 1950s and 60s is history now, perhaps as valuable to the Canadian legacy as many other eras, and equally subject to decay. Dare we predict that at some future date tourists will flock to see an historic suburban house restored to c. 1958? We may not be ready for that yet — the mind boggles at the thought of a museum full of Tupperware and hula-hoops, with an Edsel on exhibit in the driveway.

Tom Cruickshank

PETER JOHN STOKES'S SPRING BUS TOUR

Niagara Region — Saturday and Sunday, June 8 and 9. Picnic lunch in Botanical Gardens at Hamilton, dinner with Mr and Mrs. Peter John Stokes, bed and breakfast in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Sunday supper in Milton. Leaving 191 College Street Saturday at 9:00 a.m. and returning to Toronto by 9:00 p.m. Sunday night.

\$140.00 double - \$10.00 single supplement - \$75.00 by March 15 — final payment May 1. This covers everything but drinks. Sorry no refunds after May 1. Any questions contact 191 College Street, 598-3051, or call A. K. Sculthorpe, 416-885-6960. Please make cheques payable to Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Inc.

CHECK THE STYLE

The little booklet, *Check The Style* by Marion Walker Garland has gone into its second printing. When ordering, please send one dollar in a self-addressed, stamped envelope, business size, to Mrs. Marion Walker Garland, 86 Augusta St., Port Hope, Ont. L1A 1G9

AROUND AND ABOUT: Happenings in Ontario

ST. CATHARINES

Sad and infuriating news comes from this city, after a local group had just negotiated a site plan agreement with the City of St. Catharines to allow the relocation of the historic May/Clark/Seiler House. The vacant house, still on its original site in the west end of the city, just off Ontario Street on the way to Port Dalhousie, was gutted by fire on 'Cabbage Night'.^{*} Arson is suspected. A great deal of effort and campaigning was undertaken by local volunteers after several years which was just coming to fruition when this dastardly tragedy occurred. A new house close by miraculously escaped damage.

The date of the May/Clark/Seiler House is believed to be c. 1790, although exact dating was difficult due to lack of specific references in its earlier history. The heavy timber framing was an early type with post-and-beam bents (wall posts connected by cross beams supporting the second floor) to the rooms on either side of the hall which was framed with girts front and back supporting beams around the stairwell. Brick nogging or filling and some wattle and daub (mud and split sticks) was found in outside walls. The house had been changed in the nineteenth century, about 1840, and later. Its history was explored in 1979 by a group of students taking a course in preservation practice conducted by



May/Clark/Seiler House c. 1790, St. Catharines, after the fire of 30th October, 1984, which gutted the building.

Photo by Peter John Stokes

Peter Stokes at the University of Waterloo, and some building archaeology was done at that time. Subsequently the project for its relocation and restoration was taken in hand by the Port Dalhousie Quorum, who regrouped as Heritage St. Catharines to forward the scheme. Macdonald and Zuberec, architects of St. Catharines, were engaged to carry on the work.

Fire is a constant threat to old buildings and arson a tragic spectre of the preservation movement. In this case, after all the time, effort and long-awaited support promised results some uncontrollable vandal seems to have dealt the *coup de grâce* to local enterprise. Since nobody was killed or injured in this affair, the contributions of all those involved in preservation notwithstanding, the culprit or culprits, if ever apprehended, will probably get away virtually scot-free or at best without sufficient deterrent to such an irresponsible act, knowing how low a priority the preservation of our heritage continues to suffer in this province.

^{*} The night before Hallowe'en, when the older 'hellions' get about.

OAKVILLE

It was with great regret that we noticed that the Oakville House, that landmark of the early town, had been torn down. This was an important anchor building at the west end of the main commercial area, formerly Colborne Street, and renamed Lakeshore many years ago for the sake of simplicity and consistency, if not a certain loss of Oakville's separate identity. It stood on the north-east corner of Navy Street, the street leading to historic Erchless above the harbour.

The Oakville House had looked a little seedy of late, mostly because of inferior modern finishes, lack of maintenance and rather unsympathetic ground

floor changes to maintain its tavern business, but the building remained remarkably straight for its age. It is sad to see its loss, and somehow the promise of a replica seems adding insult to the injury. For a reproduction can never replace the real, and the original, Warsaw and Louisbourg examples notwithstanding and despite what more recent examples in Old Niagara might suggest. The sketch of the proposed rebuilding shows a curious compromise of the upper storeys much as they might have been combined with a row of haughty shopfronts, vintage late 1920s or 1930: strangely reminiscent of old Eaton's College Street. No self-respecting Upper Canadian hotel would have tolerated such a change.

KINGSTON

The Fairfield White House 1793 Amherstview, Near Kingston, Ontario

The photograph shows the restored exterior of the Fairfield White House which Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and His Royal Highness Prince Philip visited on their 27th of September, 1984 tour of the area. The royal party was escorted through the house by Brigadier General W. J. Patterson, Superintendent of Historic Sites for the St. Lawrence Parks Commission responsible for the restoration and interpretation of the site. Barbara Snyder, Curator of the building, and Peter John Stokes, consulting restoration architect for the project, were presented to the Queen and Prince Philip during the brief inspection of the house. Previously Her Majesty cut the ribbon to open



The Fairfield White House near Kingston.
Photo by Peter John Stokes

officially the Loyalist Parkway, as the section of Highway 33 from Kingston through Prince Edward County to Trenton is now known, at the commemorative gates designed by Lily Inglis, well-known Kingston architect, which stand behind the house.

This illustration represents the exterior of the Fairfield White House roughly at the end of its first century as interpreted from a photograph taken about 1890. The comparison with the cover of Acorn III-3 is interesting: the panelled front has been restored to the upper balcony and the open balustrade is below, the side porch has a bowed roof, and the trim of the house including the two storey verandah is a light grey restored from samples of earlier coats on the building, which provides a fascinating contrast to the stark white and dark green outlining of later schemes. The only other change in the two pictures is the absence from the second floor of Freda, the bull-terrier.

Peter John Stokes

NEWS FROM OTHER ASSOCIATIONS

HERITAGE OTTAWA

Daly Building in Grave Danger

Earlier reports indicated that CN Hotels were interested in restoring the Daly Building as an adjunct to the Chateau Laurier's own conference and meeting facilities, and were negotiating with the Department of Public Works to trade a piece of CN property for the Daly Building.

That trade has now taken place: CN swapped 30 acres of riverfront property they owned in Windsor for the Daly Building, but now say that they will find it difficult to use the Daly, even restored. A CN spokesman has said the CN might insist that the federal government give them the right to demolish the building.

The Daly Building has been designated a heritage building by the City of Ottawa, and has at least partial protection from demolition. (Under provincial legislation a city can stall demolition of a heritage building for up to nine months to try to reach an agreement with the developer. At the end of that time, however, the developer can go ahead and tear the building down.)

Not everyone likes the Daly Building but, historically and architecturally, it is of great value: it was Ottawa's first department store (doors opened 1905) and is the city's only example of the Chicago style of architecture (and is probably the purest example of the style in Canada).

INTERNATIONAL BUILDING EXHIBITION

Berlin 1987

NEW PUBLICATIONS

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